

# ARLINGTON COUNTY, VIRGINIA

## Proclamation

### SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS AND PREVENTION MONTH

**WHEREAS**, Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month calls attention to the fact that sexual violence is widespread and impacts every person in this community; and

**WHEREAS**, the vision for Arlington County is one in which Arlington is a peaceful and respectful community – where diversity is celebrated, violence is not tolerated and all people are empowered to build healthy relationships free from the fear, or threat of, all forms of domestic and sexual violence; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington is dedicated to addressing the issue of sexual violence – by ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable and victims are offered timely, holistic support services; and

**WHEREAS**, rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment are serious crimes that affect people of all races, ages, genders, sexual orientations, and income levels in our community- national statistics indicate that one in three women and one in four men will have experienced sexual assault in their lifetime; and

**WHEREAS**, in Arlington, young people in our community specifically are impacted as evidenced by statistics indicating that 50% of 8th, 10th, and 12th grade Arlington Public School female students have experienced sexual harassment at school and 20% have been sexually assaulted by a dating partner; and

**WHEREAS**, Arlington's Sexual Assault Response Team and Project PEACE work collaboratively to support joint response policies that ensure a consistent and coordinated approach to help those who have experienced sexual assault; and

**WHEREAS**, any Arlington resident, regardless of age, gender, socioeconomic status, race, sexual orientation, ability, and/or immigration status, has access to a comprehensive array of services – from the 24/7 crisis hotline, police and medical assistance, to ongoing mental health, legal, and housing support; and

**WHEREAS**, the Arlington County Board recognizes that prevention of sexual violence is possible and strongly supports the efforts of national, state, and local partners, and citizens to engage in public and private efforts, that include conversations about what sexual violence is, how to prevent it, how to help survivors connect with services, and how every segment of our society can work together to better address and prevent sexual violence;

**NOW THEREFORE, I**, Libby Garvey, Chair of the County Board of Arlington, Virginia, do hereby proclaim **April 2024**, as

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in Arlington County, and urge our residents to learn more about preventing sexual violence and to show support for the numerous organizations and individuals who provide critical advocacy, services, and assistance to victims and survivors



  
Libby Garvey  
Chair